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The Pastor Speaks

Put Christ into Christmas this week. As you gather around the tree, gather in family worship. Read from your Bible the passages which tell of His first Advent. Tell of His lowely estate, His poverty, His self-sacrificing service to all mankind, Read of His purity, meekness, kindness, and love. Let Christ crucified for our sins, Christ risen from the dead, Christ our intercessor before God be the themes set before the family and children this Christmas season.

Bow in prayer for one another in your family worship. Pray for family, church and nation. Thank God for the gifts under the tree and for the gift of Jesus. Thank God for the gift of victory over sin and Satan, and for the gifts of the Spirit, and for the gift of grace, and for the gift of eternal life in Christ.

Share the blessings of Christmas with someone less fortunate. Teach children the joy of sharing, giving, service and sacrifice. Teach them that it is more blessed to give than receive, by showing them how they can give when they receive. How about sharing some of their toys or gifts with the poor and needy? If you don't know of anyone ask your Pastor and he can find them for you.

On or under the Christmas tree have a present for Jesus. Give an offering for missions, that others may know of Christ. Why not hang a stocking for Jesus as well as the children and place your gifts to Him there. Have children place their offering in here too.

Don't dishonor Christ by gluttony and drunkenness. Your body is the temple of God. If any man defile his temple, that person will God destroy, irregardless of his profession of faith.

Make Christ central on this Christmas day, and indeed every day in family worship, prayer, and Christian service.

Hans Varmer,Pastor,
Seventh-Day Adventist Church

The Sunday School Lesson

Comments By Herbert C. Bradshaw

Lesson For December 28, 1975

JESUS' DILEMMA AND DECISION

Scripture: Matthew 3-4

Because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:18

Opposition to Jesus developed before He was old enough to know it. While He was yet a small child, probably still an infant, Herod, who ruled Palestine as king under Roman overlordship, tried to kill Him. At the outset of His ministry, Jesus encountered temptations, any one of which would have undone His mission in the world had He yielded to it. Temptation continued throughout His ministry, from His enemies who wanted to destroy His influence and from His friends who in misconception of His mission would have dissuaded Him from carrying it out. Even when He hung on the cross, He was again tempted, as He had been in the wilderness, to "prove" His Sonship by a spectacular display of power.

To the Jewish readers for whom this Gospel was written, some details which appear insignificant to us were highly significant. They saw, for example, a repetition of the experience of Israel in the flight into Egypt for safety, for Jacob also had his family had gone there to escape the ravages of famine. They saw in Jesus' stay of 40 days in the wilderness a repetition of Israel's wandering of 40 years in the wilderness and of Moses' stay of 40 days on Mt. Sinai when he received the Ten Commandments. In the wilderness Israel was sustained by God in this long preparation to enter the Land of Promise. Jesus was sustained by God during His 40 days in the wilderness. Moses was in communion with God in the 40 days he spent in the mountain in preparation for leading Israel into Canaan; Jesus was in communion with God during the 40 days in the wilderness in an immediate preparation for His ministry. So Matthew links Jesus with Israel's past.

In relating the temptations Matthew links Jesus with humanity's future. The temptations Jesus experienced are typical of the temptations men and women of every age experience. In the testing, Jesus shared a common human experience. In His response, He set a worthy example for all who come after Him.

The first sentence of Matthews's account of the temptation presents a stumbling block for some. He "was led up by the Spirit . . . to be tempted by the devil." Does the Holy Spirit lead us to temptation? We can certainly say that the Holy Spirit inspires us to do battle with the forces of evil and unrighteousness, and in engaging these forces we become subject to temptation. Not only was the temptation an experience Jesus shares with all humankind, it was also His joining battle, at the beginning of His ministry, with the powers and forces which were and are determined to frustate His mission. Another stumbling block to some is the reference to the devil. We would be totally unrealistic if we do not recognize the presence of sin and evil in the world. The Scriptures reveal that the author and fomenter of sin and evil is a person, whom it calls Satan or the devil.

Temptations may be classified in two types, the temptation to do evil and commit sin (termed sins of commission) and the temptation to refrain from doing good (termed sins of omission). The latter type of temptation often is much more subtle than the former; it is so easy to do nothing. History testifies to the truth of the observation, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." In one of the noblest of contemporary hymns, Harry Emerson Fosdick expressed what should be the prayer of every believer, "Save us from weak resignation to the evil we deplore."

The temptations Jesus experienced are representative and typical of the temptations each individual experiences: the tempatiton to gratify physical needs and desires; the temptation to test or tempt God; the temptation to acquire power. It should be noted that Jesus never performed a miracle to satisfy a personal need or gratify a personal desire. Each temptation Jesus experience He answered with a verse of Scripture, demonstrating Paul's description later that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit, an essential part of every believer's equipment. However the devil also quoted Scripture in one of his temptations, showing that Scripture may be misused and misused for evil. It is important to discern between the right and the wrong use of the Bible.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission.)

Easy Way to Christmas Th

Here's an wonderful way to say thank-you mas presents, easier than pen to write thank-y

Get someone picture of the showing him or using the gift him to write words of thanks of paper or the Grandma, or Uc to be doubly pl

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Another charity drive?

No. But we are going to ask for some of your money. The difference is, we're going to give it back. And more.

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Christmas Dinners in The Good Old Days

How many people today could manage such a menu as this one? Here it is, right out of the diary of a Dixie plantation owner:

"We had for dinner oyster soup, besides boiled mutton, ham, boned turkey, wild ducks, partridges, plum pudding, sauterne, burgundy, sherry, and Madeira."

And what gourmet cook would care to cope with this one? It was served to hearty-eating miners in the Rockies in 1858. After oysters and pork, which were conventional "openers," the menu went on to elk, antelope, buffalo "smothered" and grizzly bear a la mode. In addition, there was Black Mountain squirrel, prairie dog, and mountain rate — followed with swans, cranes, and quail — the whole lot accompanied by wines.

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American Cancer Society

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Cub Scouts Get Christmas Spirit

Pack 546 met Thursday afternoon, December 18th. Each of the boys brought based and carried to Mr. Jim Mayberry of Appomattox County to try and make ...ose enjoyable.

...left to right, are (back row) Mildred Thompson, Den Leader; Randy Scott, ...Fields, Kenneth Mayberry, and Carolyn Fileds, Den Leader; center, left to ...Jim Mayberry, and Eugene Thompson; and on the front row, left to right, ...Bach, and Ricky Mayberry, Den Chief. Dan Moon was not available for photo. ...ally one thing that makes Christmas more enjoyable for all of us.

...earcher Leaves Harvard; ...Biophysics Chairman at MCV

...Weglicki, Cardiovascular ...Laboratory at ...Hospital ...School in ...been named ...department of ...School of ...at the Medical ...campus of ...Commonwealth Uni... ...Effective June 1, ...medical medicine ...Dr. Weglicki's ...interest is in ...molecular biochemistry work has ...diagnosis and ...cardiomyopathy or ...heart ...Results of his ...described the ...lysosomes in ...cardiac tissue ...Lysosomes ...bodies within ...are visible only ...electron microscope. ...used with a ...that takes ...work, now ...with about ...from the ...and Lung ...transferred to

...said that the ...have a major ...development ...of scientific ...he said that ...research at ...benefit from

...the MCV ...recognized for its ...the effects of ...energy on ...especially in the ...visible and ...and microwave ...chairman 'dr. ...Sam Jr. now ...ing as acting

Fidelity American Bankshares Declares Dividend

LYNCHBURG* Dec. 17 -- The Board of Directors of Fidelity American Bankshares, Inc., a Lynchburg based registered bank holding company, has declared cash dividends of $.24 per share on its Common Stock and $1.50 per share on its Cumulative Convertible Voting Preferred Stock, Series A.

Both dividends are payable February 1,1976 to shareholders of record as of December 31,1975.

The first-grader was talking about the recent fire in his school. "I knew it was going to happen," he said, "because we had been practicing for it all year.

Farmers Join Sportsmen In Concern Over Reorganization Proposals

While sportsmen were appearing at public hearings around the State last week to question governmental reorganization proposals that would abolish the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Marine Resources Commission and replace them with a new Department of Marine and Wildlife Management, delegates to the Farm Bureau Federation convention in Norfolk unanimously adopted a policy resolution expressing similar concerns.

"A recent recommendation of the Commission on Governmental Management which would combine a number of State agencies gives us cause for great concern, especially in that it would do away with many of the citizen's boards and commissions which have helped to make Virginia's government the envy or almost every other state in America," acording to the statement adopted by representatives of the largest organization of farm families in Virginia.

"We are particularly concerned over the proposal to establish the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries under another agency," the resolution said. "In order that we may retain the good relationship developed between the Game Commission and Farmers, we strongly oppose this move to dilute the effectiveness of our traditionally good goverment," the statement concluded.

"Well," said the candidate, "how did you like my speech on the agricultural problem?"

"It wasn't too bad," replied the farmer, "but a good day's rain would do a lot more good."

Expert: One who makes his mistakes quietly.

* * *

Auto repairman to customer: "Sir, you have the satisfaction of knowing that your bill set a new house record."

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IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE, WHY HAVEN'T YOU DONE IT?

Many cancers are curable if detected early. Take advantage of this fact. How? By taking some time once a year and getting a checkup. Then you'll know how healthy you are. Then you'll know how to keep that way. How about starting right now? Today.

American Cancer Society

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER

HOLIDAY BELLS ring out a message of happiness and joy and glad Christmas tidings! Our special thanks.

WOOD'S MEN'S WEAR
1005 Main St. Lynchburg, Va.

In the spirit of this festive holiday, we extend sincere thanks and warm wishes for a truly old-fashioned Christmas.

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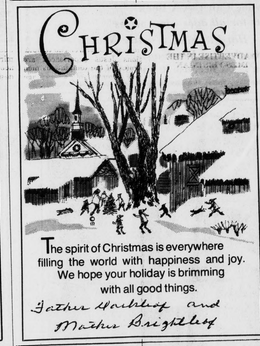


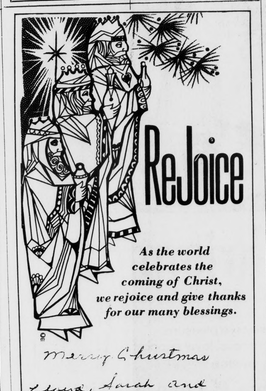
The spirit of Christmas is everywhere filling the world with happiness and joy. We hope your holiday is brimming with all good things.

Father Hatchley and Mother Brightley

Special delivery! It's a friendly message brimming with the best of holiday cheer. We hope this Christmas is the merriest and happiest for you and all your loved ones.

Florafax

Flower Boutique
Church St. Appomattox, Va.



As the world celebrates the coming of Christ, we rejoice and give thanks for our many blessings.

Merry Christmas
Lloyd, Sarah and Bill Vaughan

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